



**MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY**

Origination 02/2014  
Last Approved 02/2025  
Effective 02/2025

Policy Steward Francis Hacken:  
Director of  
Campus Safety  
and Security  
Area Safety  
Department

## Anti-Hazing Policy

### I. Reason for Policy

This policy has been established to identify, document and provide procedures to effectively address any incident reported as hazing, a criminal offense in violation of Pennsylvania law. Misericordia University is committed to providing a learning environment that is free of violence and supports the health and well-being of its students. Our core values guide and govern the actions of our community. Intentional behaviors that put a person at risk of physical and/or emotional harm are an affront to the dignity of the individual and are at odds with the values and mission of the University.

### II. Policy Statement

This Anti-Hazing Policy applies to behaviors that take place on the campus, at University sponsored events, and may also apply to off campus events, when the administration determines, in its discretion, that the off-campus conduct affects a substantial University interest. Sanctions can be applied to individuals, and/or organizations, clubs and athletic teams. Advisors, coaches, or other persons associated with a student organization, club, or team may face disciplinary action or criminal charges under state law.

### III. Who Should Read This Policy

This policy applies to individuals who attend, have applied to attend, or have been admitted to the University. This policy also applies to recruits, prospective students and admitted candidates.

# IV. The Policy

## PROHIBITED CONDUCT

### 1. HAZING

Misericordia University has no tolerance for hazing. Hazing is defined by Pennsylvania law\*, and for purposes of this Policy, as follows: When a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting, or affiliating a person into or with a club, organization, or athletic team, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a person's membership or status in a club, organization, or an athletic team, causes, coerces, or forces a person to do any of the following:

- Violate federal or state criminal law
- Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm
- Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics, or exposure to the elements
- Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment
- Endure brutality of a sexual nature\*\*
- Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

**The above types of behavior will be considered hazing even if the person consents to the activity or if the conduct was sanctioned by the club, organization, or athletic team.**

### 2. AGGRAVATED HAZING

Aggravated Hazing is defined by Pennsylvania law\*, and for purposes of this Policy, as follows:

A person, club, organization or athletic team commits aggravated hazing when the hazing results in serious bodily injury or death to a student and:

- the person, club, organization, or athletic team acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of a student; or
- the person, club, organization, or athletic team causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

**Note:** Aggravated hazing is a felony of the third degree and will automatically result in the University contacting local law enforcement as well as utilizing the University Conduct System. The University retains the right to contact law enforcement in all hazing incidents.

### 3. ORGANIZATIONAL HAZING

An organization, club, or athletic team that is recognized or sponsored by Misericordia University that

intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates hazing or aggravated hazing commits the offense of organizational hazing and will be held accountable by the University. Organizational hazing also violates Pennsylvania law\*, and is subject to penalties as set forth by the law.

## V. Definitions

\*\*Reference: Misericordia University Title IX/Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy

\*\*\*Reference: Misericordia University Amnesty Policy for Medical Emergencies involving Drugs/Alcohol/Hazing

\*\*\*Reference: PA State Law Regarding Alcohol Amnesty - Pennsylvania Crimes Code 18 Pa CS 6308.1

\*\*\*Reference: PA State Law Regarding Drug Overdose Amnesty - Pennsylvania Crimes Code 35 PS 780-113.7

## VI. Procedures

### 1. How to report an incident

Misericordia University encourages all members of the community who believe that they have witnessed, experienced or are aware of conduct that constitutes Hazing, Aggravated Hazing or Organizational Hazing in violation of this policy to report the violation. Reports can be made to Campus Safety, the Dean of Students Office, the Athletics Office, or the Student Engagement Office. Anyone can also report concerns by submitting a form online. This Incident Reporting form can be [found here : Incident Reporting form](#)

### 2. Enforcement of Policy

Any violation of this Policy shall be deemed a violation of Misericordia University's Student Code of Conduct. All allegations of Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing will be investigated through the Dean of Students Office and in collaboration with Campus Safety. The University reserves the right to take appropriate actions to preserve the safety of the campus community during the investigation process until resolution. The University retains the right to contact law enforcement in all hazing incidents.

### 3. Sanctions

Individuals and/or clubs, organizations or athletic teams can be found responsible for hazing or aggravated hazing. The following is a list of sanctions that may be applied by the University if a violation of this policy occurs including but not limited to:

- Educational Sanctions;
- Residential Sanctions;
- Status Sanctions;
- Club, Organization or Athletic Team Probation;

- Club, Organization or Athletic Team Suspension;
- Revocation of the club or organization charter; and/or
- Other applicable sanctions.

This listing does **not** include those sanctions that an individual, club, organization, or athletic team could also be subject to pursuant to law, including, but not limited to, the Pennsylvania Antihazing Law.\*

\*Reference: PA State Law: Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law - Pennsylvania Crimes Code 18 Pa CS 2801-2811

## 4. SAFE HARBOR

Under certain specific conditions, and consistent with PA state law, when a student seeks medical assistance for another student who is believed to be in need of immediate medical attention to prevent death or serious bodily injury due to hazing, neither the student who is in need of medical attention nor the student who has reported it will be charged with violations of the Anti-Hazing policy.\*\*

## 5. ACT 80 INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

Misericordia University will maintain a report of all violations of this Policy or of Federal or State laws related to hazing that are reported to the University. Misericordia University will update the report biennially on January 1st and August 1st and will post the updated report on Misericordia.edu website

---

### Attachments

[!\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2\_img.jpg\) 18 PA CS 2801-2811 .pdf](#)

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a\_img.jpg\) 18 PA CS 6308.1.pdf](#)

[!\[\]\(dd161862f9164df98f62b726e9846241\_img.jpg\) 35 PS 780-113.7.pdf](#)

### Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Final Approval	Daniel Myers: President	02/2025
Final Review	Amy Lahart: Vice President for Mission Integration & Stud	02/2025
	Callie Rimpfel Mack: Dean of Students	02/2025

COPY